

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE BROWN COUNTY
VETERANS' RECOGNITION SUBCOMMITTEE**

Pursuant to Section 19.84, Wis. Stats., a regular meeting of the **Brown County Veterans' Recognition Subcommittee** was held on Tuesday, February 17, 2015 at 5:00 p.m., in Room 201 of the Northern Building, 305 E. Walnut Street, Green Bay, Wisconsin.

PRESENT: Rosemary Desisles, Lynn Geiser, Tracy Rosinski, Delores Pierce, Duane Pierce, Bernie Erickson, Jim Haskins, Jerry Polus, Joe Witkowski

EXCUSED: Carl Soderberg, Ed Koslowski

****Running Total of Veterans' Certificates: 1681**

1. Call Meeting to Order.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Bernie Erickson at 5:00 p.m.

2. Invocation.

3. Approve/Modify Agenda.

Motion made by Jim Haskins, seconded by Delores Pierce to approve. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4. Approve or Modify Minutes of January 20, 2015.

Motion made by Joe Witkowski, seconded by Delores Pierce to approve. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

5. Possible discussion/review regarding Veterans Appreciation Day at the Brown County Fair in preparation for 2015.

Jim Haskins stated that he attended the most-recent Fair Board meeting. He asked the Fair Board about a covered stage and was advised that they could possibly get one but the Subcommittee would have to pay the cost for the rental. This will be discussed in greater length at the next meeting.

Jerry Polus indicated that he has not received a response regarding the availability of the band yet; however, he hoped to hear something soon and will keep the Subcommittee advised.

A brief discussion was also held with regard to honoring the women veterans at the Fair and Witkowski noted that giving each woman a rose was discussed at the last meeting. He also suggested the Subcommittee look into the manicure sets that he showed a few months ago as a possible gift. Tracy Rosinski stated that she will bring one of the manicure sets to the next meeting so a decision can be made.

6. Possible discussion regarding honoring female veterans at Veterans Appreciation Day at the Brown County Fair.

Rosemary Desisles indicated that she had contacted Sherry Steenbock to see if she kept the names of veterans that certificates were sent to so we could get the names of female veterans, but Steenbock indicated that she did not retain the names. Erickson noted that there were other ways to get the names of female vets in the County and he also felt that once the word was out that female veterans were going to be honored, the word would spread quickly. Erickson felt that the media may also be useful in helping to get the word

out. Polus indicated that he had several resources that could be helpful in putting a list of female veterans together.

7. Report from Committee Members Present (Erickson, Desisles, Haskins, Koslowski, Maino, Pierce, Rosinski & Witkowski).

-Bernie Erickson did not have anything to report.

-Rosemary Desisles did not have anything to report.

-Jim Haskins reported that he had ordered the new "In God We Trust" license plates for his car. He indicated that he had somewhat of a struggle at the Motor Vehicle Department as no one there seemed to be aware that the plates were available and Haskins was the first person to come in and ask for them.

Haskins also read a poem that he had written in 2011 entitled *Freedom*. Copies of the poem will be prepared for the Subcommittee and available at the next meeting.

-Duane Pierce reported that he and Lynn Geiser as well as several others attended the Hoops for Troops event recently at Bay Port High School. He stated that the veterans marched onto the court as the National Anthem was being played and it was a very interesting event. He urged others to attend next year as the students at Bay Port do a phenomenal job with their veteran activities.

Pierce continued that Legion Post 539 will be holding a fund raising luncheon for Denise Rohan who is running for National American Legion Commander. Rohan would be the first female to hold this position. The fundraiser will be held on March 14 at 12:00 p.m. at the Swan Club. The cost of the luncheon is \$14 and anyone wishing to attend should contact Lori Bellows no later than February 24. Rohan will be the guest speaker at the event.

Pierce continued that Legion Post 11 is visiting veterans at area nursing homes. They have a schedule set through April and a copy is attached. On the March 27, 30 and 31 visits they will be distributing Easter baskets to the vets as a way to show them that they are not forgotten. Geiser stated that they currently have 10 – 12 baskets ready and are looking for 65 total.

-Tracy Rosinski reported that Heartland has made arrangements to bring author Debra Grassman back to Green Bay the first week in June. To tag along with that, Heartland has recently signed a contract with King to provide hospice services to their members. Rosinski is working with the director at King and will try to do training with Grassman when she is here. Rosinski also stated that they are looking at doing a soul injury ceremony at King.

-Joe Witkowski reported that he was at Woodside recently and a resident rolled out in his wheelchair and announced that he was scheduled to take part in an Old Glory Honor Flight and was thrilled. Witkowski also stated that if anyone wanted him to come to any organizations to do the *Gettysburg Address*, he would be happy to do so at any time. Witkowski also referenced a discussion from the last meeting that New Orleans was the first city to eliminate veterans' homelessness and he intends to write to the Chamber of Commerce to get more information that he will share with the Subcommittee. Witkowski also indicated that he has been seeing quite a few ads on television from the Wounded Warrior Project which he does not like in light of what was reported at the last meeting as to the percentages of donations that actually go to veterans. Witkowski also stated that at the next meeting he would like to sing the fifth verse of the *Star Spangled Banner*.

8. Report from CVSO Jerry Polus.

CVSO Jerry Polus indicated that another individual had graduated from the Veterans Court last week. He stated that the Court is having very high levels of success and Court is held every Friday morning from 9:30 – 11:00 am. Anyone interested in attending may do so. Polus noted that Veterans Court is totally funded by grants and donations while other

treatment courts are funded by the County and noted that the success rate in Veterans Court is higher than that of other treatment courts. Polus noted that the budget for Veterans Court is estimated to be about \$20,000 per year, but he would like to have a budget large enough to hire a dedicated staff person, however at this time they do not have that luxury due to funding.

9. **Comments from Carl Soderberg.**

Soderburg was unable to attend this meeting; no report was given.

10. **Comments from Lynn Geiser**

Lynn Geiser stated that the Hope 4 Vets event is scheduled from noon to 4:00 pm on February 28 at the Warpinski Community Center, 515 S. Monroe Avenue. Veterans can get a hot meal, receive a haircut and warm clothes and connect with other vets and their families. Information about veterans' benefits and resources will also be available. Geiser indicated that they are still working on food donations and are in need of chicken, shredded cheese and tater tots. If anyone is able to donate these items, they can let Geiser know. She indicated that they have plenty of warm clothes to distribute and also noted that there will be 8 – 10 people giving haircuts. Jason Moon will also be performing at the event. Moon is an Iraq veteran who tells a phenomenal story about his struggles. Geiser noted that they are still in need of volunteers for the event and anyone interested in helping can contact her. Rosinski noted that there will be two or three volunteers from Heartland at the event.

Polus indicated that he has received calls regarding this event, but did not know much about it. He was trying to figure out if this was an event for homeless veterans and Duane Pierce noted that it was for homeless veterans as well as at risk veterans. Geiser stated the focus is on homeless veterans, but the peer to peer connection component was also a big part of the event as there are still a lot of veterans struggling in the community. She noted that the Vet Center will be there along with the VA and Center for Veterans Issues as well as a number of other organizations. Geiser stated that her key focus is bringing the veterans together with their families and educating the community and providing awareness as to how to work with veterans. Polus noted that he did not have much information about the event as his office was not approached to participate and he did not know what the focus of the event was. He noted that his office works very closely with some of the other organizations mentioned by Geiser and also noted that his office would have participated if they would have been asked. Geiser indicated that there will also be a survey for veterans to fill out at the event which will include contact information for anyone who wants further information on available services. Geiser also noted that monetary donations would be welcome.

11. **Such Other Matters as Authorized by Law.**

Duane Pierce suggested that an item be included on next month's agenda to take a vote to formally make Lynn Geiser a member of this Subcommittee. Erickson responded that he will include an agenda item for this next month.

12. **Adjourn.**

Motion made by Jim Haskins, seconded by Duane Pierce to adjourn at 5:40 p.m. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Respectfully submitted,

Therese Giannunzio
Recording Secretary

LEGION POST 11
NURSING HOME VISITS
MEET 10-15 MINUTES EARLY NEAR FRONT DOOR
NEED DIRECTIONS CALL SNAKE 360-0114

2/20 @ 130 PM ANGELS TOUCH @ 394 ANGELS TOUCH CT
- DE PERE

2/27 @ 130 PM CARDINAL RIDGE @ 713 CARDINAL LANE
- HOWARD

4/8 @ 145 PM RENNES @ 200 S. 9TH ST - DE PERE

3/11 @ 2 PM GOLDEN LIVING @ 1640 SHAWANO AVE.

3/18 @ 130 PM ODD FELLOWS @ 1229 S. JACKSON ST.

3/27 @ 2 PM (EASTER BASKETS)
WOODSIDE @ 1040 PILGRIM WAY

3/30 @ 2 PM (EASTER BASKETS)
BORNEMANN @ 226 BORNEMAN ROAD

3/31 @ 10 AM (EASTER BASKETS)
PARKVIEW MANOR @ 2961 ST. ANTHONY DR.

4/16 @ 2 PM MANOR CARE WEST @ 1760 SHAWANO AVE.

4/24 @ 130 PM ANGELS @ 394 ANGELS TOUCH CT - DE PERE

4/30 @ 130 PM CARDINAL RIDGE @ 713 CARDINAL LANE - HOWARD